

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—THE RICHES OF THE FORT. Matinee at 2.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—POINT OF VIEW. Matinee at 2.—CHAMBER OF LIBERTY. 5.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—SARATOGA.

GLOBE THEATRE, 28 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. 8. GLOBE THEATRE, 28 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. 8.

NEW YORK STADT THEATRE, 45 Bowery.—DIS GRILLE.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, 234 St. between 5th and 6th ays.—RICHIE.

WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner 30th st.—Performances every afternoon and evening.

FOURTEENTH STREET THEATRE (Theatre Francaise).—RICHIE.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE SPECTACLE OF THE BLACK CROW. Matinee at 1 1/2.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 12th street.—THE HEIR AT LAW.

LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE, 725 Broadway.—HUNTED DOWN; OR, THE TWO LIVES OF MARY LEIGH. Matinee.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 8th av. and 23d st.—LES BRIGANDES.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PAKK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—SARATOGA.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—FAINT HEART NEVER WON FAIR LADY. Matinee at 2.

TOMMY LANTORNIER'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. Matinee at 2.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 814 Broadway.—COMIE VOCALISME, NEGRO ACTS, &c. Matinee at 2.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTREL HALL, 585 Broadway.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, PARADES, BURLESQUES, &c.

BRYANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE, 231 St. between 5th and 7th ays.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, BURLESQUES, &c.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—HOOVER'S AND KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS.

APOLLO HALL, corner 38th street and Broadway.—DR. COHEN'S DIAGRAM OF IRELAND.

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—SOURCES IN THE HUNG. ACROBATS, &c. Matinee at 2 1/2.

SOMERSETT GALLERY, 82 Fifth avenue.—EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF ART.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 745 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, February 22, 1871.

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"CHIPPWA" is to be the name of a new Territory to be taken from the northern part of Dakota. Uncle Sam had better be looking after his new Territories; for if the Western land grabbers keep on at their present rate he will soon not have a chip nor an inch of soil left.

THIS IS A GREAT DAY IN THE CALENDAR of 1871, as Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, and as the 22d of February, the beginning of the glorious life of Washington. In both respects, by all good Christians and patriots, let it be duly remembered and honored.

THE *Mobile Register* says it has been ascertained that the difficulty with the Havana cable is that the loggerhead turtles—a huge sea shell fish, with jaws like sharpened shears—bait it off. The trouble usually with most ocean cables is that the managers get so frequently at loggerheads.

FALSE WEIGHTS IN THE CUSTOM HOUSE.—A suit for four hundred thousand dollars has been commenced by the government against the firm of Weld & Co., for alleged frauds to that amount by false weight of imported sugars. It is charged that they bribed a weigher of the Custom House to return their weights at figures much less than the true ones.

DOC SIMMONS, the engineer, who died at his post in the New Hamburg disaster, was buried yesterday with no show nor parade nor panegyric beyond that bestowed by the presence of a church full of people, who came to do honor to the memory of a humble, unpretentious hero, whose dying act will adorn the hard realities of his everyday life like a bit of evergreen upon a rugged wall.

THE STEAMSHIP *VILLE DE PARIS*.—The steamship *Ville de Paris* left this port on the 21st of last month for Bordeaux, and as yet we have had no news of her arrival. Doubtless she reached her destination on time, but possibly in the confusion caused by the recent important military and civil events in that part of France, particularly in Bordeaux, telegraphing her arrival has been neglected. Should any private despatches have been received here announcing her safety it would be well to make them public for the benefit of those who may have friends and relatives on board.

The Joint High Commission—Its Duties and Its Difficulties.

In another place in this day's *HERALD* we print a despatch giving a condensed account of the debate which took place yesterday in the New Dominion Parliament at Ottawa. We refer our readers to the despatch. It speaks for itself. It shows that the New Dominion legislators are seriously exercised about this Joint Commission; that they are afraid of it; that they distrust it; that their conviction is they are betrayed. Our New Dominion friends have got titles. Sir A. T. Galt brought forth a motion on the fisheries. Sir John A. Macdonald replied. Sir John admitted that the Treaty of 1818 was still a power. The Americans recognized the three-mile boundary line. But Sir John could not refuse to admit that the headlines, which had not been sufficiently looked at in 1818, made a new question, which was still in abeyance. In the course of the debate it was stated that the Canadians had been slightly snubbed by Sir Edward Thornton in the negotiations which led to the enlargement of the powers of the Commission. It will be seen also from our despatch that our New Dominion friends are encouraged in the belief that this Joint High Commission, with its enlarged powers, must consider, along with the fishery question and the Alabama claims, the damages done by the Fenians in their territory.

So far so good for Canada, or the New Dominion. On the part of the British public, as we know, a very general opinion prevails that this Joint High Commission is a glorious affair. And why? Because it is to put an end to American buncombe, to make all outstanding questions plain and intelligible, to counterbalance Alabama and other claims by claims as solid, as substantial and more easy of proof, and otherwise to bring about on easy terms a final and satisfactory settlement between the two great English-speaking peoples. In other words, it is the conviction in Great Britain to-day—a conviction shared by Britishers here and elsewhere, and all the world over—that, whatever claims we may present, these can and will be counterbalanced by claims equally heavy on the other side. The reasoning in consequence is that Great Britain can admit all and pay all without paying anything at all.

Our New Dominion friends and the Britishers, wherever found, are equally at fault in their calculations. We have distinct and unmistakable ends in view. We have suffered, and suffered severely. In our four years struggle our greatest enemy was Great Britain; and British North America, as part of the British empire, shared the sin and folly and shame, and must share the consequences. We want compensation for our losses—losses unjustly inflicted upon us—and we have no other end in view in connection with this High Commission than to have these losses repaired. At the commencement of the civil war in this country our shipping was scarcely second to that of Great Britain. The war ruined our carrying trade and drove our ships from the high seas. But for the course pursued by Great Britain this loss on our part could not have happened. Vessels built and equipped and owned in Great Britain preyed upon our commerce, and under the thinnest veil the world has ever known claimed irresponsibility while wickedly destroying our ships and surreptitiously entering our ports. As a nation our loss has been irreparable; but, while the nation can bear the burden, thousands upon thousands of our citizens have been hopelessly and irretrievably ruined. We have sought no revenge. Twice over a section of our people, Irishmen by birth or by descent, believing that the New Dominion was part of Great Britain, have attempted invasion, conquest and revenge, and twice over, in place of encouraging folly and wrong, which we might easily have turned to account, we have put down the Fenians and saved to Great Britain her North American provinces. We have not nursed or aggravated or tried in any way to avenge our wrongs. We have only not forgotten them; and, with the magnanimity which characterized our treatment of the South, we have dealt with our British cousins. We have waited long, but we have waited patiently. We have reasoned long, but we have reasoned wisely. We have had our opportunities for revenge, but we have, with a magnanimity becoming our cause and our strength, uniformly refused to take any unjust advantage. We want nothing but reparation for our wrongs, compensation for our losses. When this Joint High Commission was appointed we, speaking in the name of the great American people, whose sentiments we have rarely misinterpreted, hailed it as an omen of good, and believed we saw in the not distant future a satisfactory solution of all the outstanding difficulties between the two great English speaking peoples. We still believe in the Joint High Commission; but we still stand also by the American people, by their wrongs and by their losses; and our voice to-day is still loud, emphatic and imperative for redress, if not for revenge.

This was our position when the announcement of the Joint High Commission first reached us. This is our position to-day. It was our belief that the Commission was appointed for the purpose of redressing our wrongs, not the wrongs of Great Britain. When, however, our New Dominion neighbors, through the mouths of their coroneted baronets, began to howl, and when, in addition, we learned from British sources that the Commission was expected to examine British claims against the United States as well as our claims against Great Britain, we with becoming consistency spoke out; and, as is our wont, we used no measured language. What we have said we repeat. If the High Commission has for its object the settlement of our claims against Great Britain we hail it, rejoice in it and wish it God speed. But if the High Commission has been appointed by the British government, with or without the consent of our government, with any *arrivée pensée*, with any idea of meeting and balancing our claims by counter claims, we do and will and must denounce the Joint High Commission as a grand fraud, a huge swindle. We will not, we cannot have it. We do not despise the *couteur de rose* in diplomatic action, but no smooth-facedness, no soft language can deceive us or drive us from our purpose. The Joint High Commission can only have one purpose; it must only do one thing—con-

sider and report upon our claims. The fishery question is a small affair and can be easily settled. But if the New Dominionites present claims for losses sustained by Fenian raids; if Southern rebels and English merchants present bills for cotton losses, we must openly and honestly say, before the Commission commences to deliberate, that the American people will not abide by its decisions, and that it must and will prove a failure. Let it not be forgotten that the Joint High Commission can only approve and recommend—that Congress must decide. Whatever the Joint High Commission may do, however wise and good dinners and pleasant talk may influence the members and mould or modify their sentiments, the American people will look to Congress and hold Congress responsible. As we have faith in the American people, so have we faith in Congress. At the same time let it be understood that if the Joint High Commission acts wisely and well we shall rejoice; nor shall we be unwilling to give President Grant a fair share of praise. If it does not well we shall show it no mercy. We shall take note of all its doings, and according to the evidence of each successive day we shall praise or blame. Let us have peace, but let us have peace with honor and dignity.

February in St. Domingo and in New York—Mark the Contrast.

Our correspondents' letters from St. Domingo furnish the strongest evidence in support of the Rev. Dr. Vinton's capital idea of securing that gloriously beautiful tropical island as a place of refuge on American soil for American invalids from the severe trials of our hard continental winters. Mark the contrast between February in New York and February in St. Domingo! Here the coldness, whiteness and death of winter are over all the land, and our rivers are charged with fields of ice, as if they had drifted down from the Arctic circle, while down in St. Domingo perpetual summer reigns. Here, saving our hardy firs, pines and cedars, our melancholy woods stand like groups of frozen skeletons on the hills; there the hills, covered with palm trees and orange groves, and a thousand tropical fruits and flowers, and gay with birds and butterflies, give us a living picture of fairy land. Here the toughest Jersey fisherman would freeze to death in the attempt to pass one of these February nights in slumbers.

On the beach at Loaz Branch, while one of our St. Domingo correspondents tells us that in an overland trip from Samana Bay to St. Domingo, city he and his party passed in sleep a delightful night with nothing to protect them from the dew and the overshadowing trees. Here the winter's struggle for existence in thousands of cases is a failure, from the dearth of provisions, clothing and fuel, and from the want of employment; there, even in our winter months, neither fuel nor clothing gives a moment's anxiety to the happy natives, and their provisions may be gathered from the woods, fields and waters, with no other labor than to take them. Here the hard, cold, piercing wintry winds from the northwest try the strongest lungs, and our damp and chilling nor'easters bring a bountiful crop of colds, consumptions and rheumatisms; while there old men of ninety in a single cotton garment sit at their cabin doors watching the gambols of their great-grandchildren, naked as they were born, playful as kittens and fat as butter.

The Rev. Dr. Vinton is right. We want St. Domingo as a winter *sanatorium*, and we want it as a place of refuge for thousands of our destitute poor. And what a paradise it will be to all our Bohemians, who have all their lives been dreaming of such a place, where eternal summer smiles; where bountiful nature provides all the food, clothing and shelter that are needed; where men may live and dream their lives away in fairyland without capital or labor, and where, by taking to the mountains when "Yellow Jack" is around, even he may be avoided! Oh! we must have that wonderful island of St. Domingo! Alaska was a sell; but St. Domingo, on the terms proposed, will pay for Alaska.

CLUB LIFE IN PARIS.—The Paris Jockey and Rue Royale Clubs have adopted a resolution which declares that "all candidates of German birth shall be excluded" from membership of the associations. This is a poor system of Know-Nothingism—a spirit which we have hitherto regarded as being entirely foreign to the French character. It may be that the cable report is not exactly correct. Should it prove so it must be said that the action of the city clubs tends to indicate how keenly the Parisians feel their humiliation. The Germans will most probably retort by the assertion that they have ridden the winning horse, notwithstanding the French sporting ban.

THE ARREST OF BOYD, the counterfeiter, on Saturday, is claimed by the secret service men to be the most important haul that has yet been made of "shovers of the queer," not excepting the recent capture of the famous Pete McCartney in Illinois. Only seventeen hundred dollars' worth of the spurious money was found upon his person, but he is thought to be the shrewdest and sharpest counterfeiter in the country, and is believed to be the leader of the gang of which McCartney, Biebusch and Gurney were shining lights. One cheering feature of the arrest was the scientific way in which our detectives worked it up, luring the victim to New York and "shadowing" him patiently and vigilantly until they secured him with proofs of his guilt upon him. It shows that our detectives are learning their business.

IT IS ALMOST ENCOURAGING to read of an English elopement such as had its *finale* in this city the other day, when a wronged English husband, chasing his runaway wife and her friend across the Atlantic, captured them here and persuaded her to go back with him. We have so many of these little incidents in the social life of our own country that it is a matter of some congratulation to know that our misery is not wholly companionless.

THE MAHON (Ind.) *Chronicle* thinks Thomas A. Hendricks would make a strong democratic candidate for the Presidency, but that it is hardly possible for him to secure the nomination, owing to the supreme power of the corrupt New York politicians in the party. The *Chronicle* is probably not aware that what it calls the "corrupt New York politicians" have withdrawn their candidate-

The Queen of Spain at the Point of Death—Alarms and Dangers of the New Royalty.

By a special cable telegram letter from Madrid, dated on the 20th inst., we are informed of the existence of a new and sudden alarm, as well as the advent of another and fresh danger to the Spanish crown. The *HERALD* correspondent announces that her Majesty the Queen, Maria Victoria, wife of King Amadeus, was prostrated by disease and laid at the point of death on a sick bed at midnight of Monday and to an early hour yesterday morning. The Queen, who had journeyed from Florence to rejoin her husband in the Spanish capital, was seized with sickness in the town of Allassio, soon after landing on the Spanish soil. The first symptoms were decidedly febrile and announced the advent of a severe attack of miliary fever—an eruptive disease of the skin, and one which is very likely to terminate fatally by congestion in some of the great internal cavities of the body, particularly when the patient has been previously excited and then again depressed by conflicting mental emotions, as must have been the case with the youthful sovereign after she learned of the tragic circumstances under which her husband had assumed the crown of the Bourbons, with Prim stretched dead almost in his very presence. Queen Maria, who had been consoled and fortified by the clergy and the reception of the sacraments of the Church, remained in charge of the physicians at the moment when our despatch was specially forwarded from Madrid to London for transmission to New York.

From the same source of information we are told of the continued existence of crime, springing from political demoralization and the social disorganization which results from the encouragement of party faction in Madrid. A conspiracy had been formed against the life of Señor Rois Zorrilla, the President of the Cortes. Many persons had been arrested charged with combining together for the purpose of accomplishing the murder of that gentleman, and as they have been committed to prison we are to presume that the life of the distinguished parliamentary functionary was, for a moment at least, in danger.

Spain is, as it appears to us, in an exceedingly unhappy condition, notwithstanding her really fine efforts for the attainment of a national rehabilitation. Whether the advent of a foreigner to her throne will aid her healthily in this direction remains to be seen. The late Lord Lyndhurst, speaking in the British Parliament, in the plenitude of his senatorial wisdom and with all the solemnity of his baronial and judicial honors and age, declared that there existed an "alienism of language and of blood" between certain peoples which rendered their homogeneous fusion an ethnological impossibility. "The Irish," said the venerable Lord Chancellor, "are aliens in language, in creed and in blood" from the British. The utterance of this pronouncement of divorce by the then "keeper of her Majesty's conscience" enabled the Irish people to understand the difference of race, as with the English, in the light of science, and as being, consequently, insuperable. They wandered away from Great Britain in greater numbers, and have found a home everywhere except near the scene of the parent extradition. It may be so to a certain degree between the Italians and Spaniards, although in this instance the peoples have branched from a common Latin stock. A slight "alienism" may prevail notwithstanding.

THE PENNSYLVANIA COAL CONSPIRACY.—In spite of the fact that the coal "operators," as they are called, had a surplus of two million tons of coal stored away—that is to say, just that amount over the average stock—we find that the strike of the miners in certain parts of the coal regions is made a pretext for the advance in price to twelve dollars a ton, which was the retail market price yesterday. There is no plausible reason for this, unless it is to be found in the ruthless determination of the coal men to inflict an extortion upon the people anyhow. The conspiracy has been, so far, adroitly manipulated between the coal monopolists and the railroads. The latter have, nominally, perhaps, advanced the cost of transportation to an exorbitant sum, thus giving an excuse to the coal operators to raise their prices. We know how easily these things can be managed by afflicting monopolies, and, therefore, we are not convinced that the present rise in the price of coal is a necessity of trade. On the contrary, we are satisfied that it is a deliberate extortion.

JOHN MORIARTY, the Fenian, of Philadelphia, has put a hard conundrum to Secretary Fish. He wants to know if the Joint High Commission is empowered to pass upon the claims of the Fenian exiles for damages by imprisonment in British bastilles. Fish had to give it up.

QUITE A RACY SCENE occurred in Judge Gross' Marine Court yesterday when Mrs. Woodhull, the untiring advocate of woman's right to suffrage and the Presidency, was tried on a charge of speculating unwisely with a Miss Swindell's money in Wall street. It would appear that she took five hundred dollars of the complainant's money, at complainant's urgent request, and invested it in gold. The five hundred dwindled to eighteen dollars and sixty-two cents in one or two turns of the indicator, and Miss Swindell concluded that she had been swindled. Thereupon she brought this suit, and the jury, apparently thinking pretty much as she did, allowed her three hundred and fifty odd dollars.

THE WAR AMONG THE WOMEN is becoming bitter. It will finally become a war to the knife and the knife to the hilt if this style of thing goes on much longer. Here is Mrs. Beecher Hooker about to open on Washington as a faithful follower of Mrs. Woodhull on the lecture rostrum; and here is Mrs. Phelps about to call upon all women to put down this suffrage movement. The next thing we know there will be names called and hair pulled, and then where are we?

THE FOLLOWING is the result of the town meetings in this State thus far this year:—Broome county—Republicans 13, democrats 7; Steuben (in part)—Republicans 15, democrats 11; St. Lawrence—Republicans 24, democrats 4; Tioga—Republicans 8, democrats 2. Very little excitement was manifested at the meetings.

The Weapons of the European War—American Superiority and Deficiency.

There are some lessons taught us by the present war in Europe which should be carefully borne in mind, and one of them relates to the weapons used by the contending armies. We have no large standing army, but our system of military defence, defective as it is in many essential features, enables us to rapidly raise and organize hundreds of thousands of men familiar with the use of firearms, and, more or less, acquainted with the discipline of a soldier. In these scientific days, however, much depends upon the weapons used by an army—more, perhaps, than even good generalship and perfect discipline. We doubt if the French would have gained any victories in the present war had they been as well drilled as the Germans and remained waiting in the terrible breech-loading field artillery used by their adversaries, and which has, on almost every battle field done more to defeat them than the strategy of Von Moltke and the imbecility of their own generals. It is, therefore, of some importance to inquire into our ability to enter a war upon equal terms with other great nations.

One fact developed by the European contest is the defectiveness of the French and German system of small arms. Although proven at Sadowa superior to the old muzzle-loader, the needle-gun has been an ordinary weapon when opposed to the Chassepot. At Mars la Tour and Gravelotte the superior range and initial velocity of the French weapon almost neutralized the advantage possessed by the Germans in artillery, numbers and generalship. Never at any time during these battles did the Germans succeed in breaking the French line. At Gravelotte, especially, it was not until the right wing of Bazaine's army had been turned and its rear threatened that the French retired, in perfect order, upon the fortress of Metz.

Nevertheless the Chassepot, which is only an improvement on the needle-gun, is also a defective weapon. Both guns are, in fact, constructed on a false principle. The breech mechanism works by means of a bolt, which moves backward and forward in a channel in order to open and close the breech. This occasions great friction, and as both guns use paper cartridges there is a general tendency for the gas to escape, thereby fouling the piece and obstructing the operation of the bolt. In addition, the channel in which the bolt acts frequently conducts the gas back to the face of the soldier firing the gun, rendering it dangerous to handle. But, as we have said before, the superior range of the Chassepot has been a decided benefit to the French, and accounts in a measure for the desperate resistance Douay's brigade at Weissenburg and MacMahon's corps at Worth were able to offer to the immensely superior forces which attacked them.

It must be borne in mind, however, that the Chassepot, though superior to the needle-gun, has been proven inferior to many American and English breech-loading rifles. As we remarked before, the system on which both the French and German guns are made is bad. Experience has demonstrated the defectiveness of all breech-loading small arms in which paper cartridges are used, when opposed to similar arms charged with metallic cartridges, and simply because it is difficult to prevent the fouling of the breech apparatus with the first, and next to impossible for there to be any fouling with the second, if the breech piece be constructed on sound scientific principles.

In the matter of small arms our government has displayed much wisdom in selecting a weapon which is not only superior to the Chassepot and needle-gun, but also to the English Snider and any other breech-loader yet tested. One hundred thousand Americans armed with the Remington rifle, which has been adopted by the United States Navy, and officially reported for adoption by the Army, would be more than a match for a similar force of French, Germans or English, armed with their present weapons, if both armies were equal in artillery and generalship. The simplicity of its mechanism, its durability, its strength in resisting the recoil of the charge, its facility of execution, rapidity of firing and accuracy of range combine to make it probably the best military arm in the world. Such is the opinion of many of our army officers, including Generals Sherman, Sheridan and Schofield, and such also is the opinion of the Spanish, Swedish, Egyptian, Danish and, though too late, French governments, which have ordered large numbers, while rejecting native or European inventions. But if we even had no Remingtons we should still possess an advantage over the principal European nations in the matter of small arms. The converted Springfield, which is also used by our government; the Peabody, the Spencer and Winchester repeating rifles, and half a dozen others whose names we cannot recall to mind, are as much superior to the Chassepot, needle-gun and Snider as these latter are to the old muzzle-loader.

But while we are as safe as science can make us in our small arms, we are deficient in artillery. During the rebellion the favorite field pieces in our armies were the rifled Parrott and the Napoleon smooth bore. Both are undoubtedly good guns, but neither can compare with the breech-loading cannon used by the Germans. The correspondents, in their reports of battles fought between the French and Germans, have invariably stated that "before the French could even catch a glimpse of the enemy they were compelled to sustain a fearfully effective artillery fire," so great was the range of the German guns. In fact, the war in France has been decided by artillery. Formidable as is the French mitrailleuse, it cannot compete with the German rifled breech-loader. It certainly can fire a great many balls in an incredibly short space of time, but it is incapable of spreading the missiles which it discharges. These follow a single line and do not diverge; hence, unless the mitrailleuse be parked on a battle field, its effect is scarcely greater than that of canister thrown from a twelve-pounder Napoleon field piece at easy range. At long distances it is powerless when opposed to the German gun.

We have in the Gatling gun adopted for the army a mitrailleuse superior to that used by the French, but we have no breech-loading cannon. Of what avail, then, would be our superiority in small arms if our army went into battle supported by rifled Par-

rotis and Napoleon smooth-bore guns, if, as has been the case in France, it was opposed by a force armed with the same artillery used by the Germans? Clearly none. At the Springfield Armory the government is manufacturing Remingtons and converting the old muzzle-loading rifle on the Allen system; but it is doing nothing, so far as we are aware, to improve our artillery. It is true that there is no immediate prospect of our engaging in war with a foreign power. The Alabama claims and fisheries questions will doubtless be amicably settled. But we know not at what time questions may arise and involve us in war. It will not do to wait till the contest is upon us before preparing to meet it. Our government should at once have our artillery recast and made equal to, if not better than, the German breech-loading cannon. In our artillery lies our military deficiency and our military weakness, which, if not remedied, may involve us in serious disasters.

Congress Enjoying a Half-Holiday—The Southern Pacific Railroad Bill Passed.

The masquerading folly to which the citizens of Washington have been abandoning themselves the last two days invaded the precincts of the Capitol and succeeded yesterday in luring away both houses from their legislative duties. First the pages were discharged from attendance, and then grave Senators and Representatives yielded to the temptation and adjourned in time to witness the grand procession of masqueraders. The House, however, was long enough in session to pass the Southern Pacific Railroad bill, granting away some thirteen million acres of the public lands. The bill provides for a single trunk line from the eastern boundary of Texas to the bay of San Diego, California.

The Senate, while in session, was engaged on the Legislative Appropriation bill. The proceedings were without interest or importance.

A LOCAL AND A DANGEROUS NUISANCE.

A son of our Superintendent of Police the other day had one of his eyes nearly knocked out by a snowball hurled at his head. Why don't Superintendent Kelso issue an order prohibiting the dangerous practice of snow-balling in the public streets and avenues? During the height of the sleighing it was as much as one's life was worth for a man to take his family out on a quiet sleigh ride, in consequence of the discharge of volleys of these missiles, some of them composed of something heavier than snow, by gangs of vagrants. A number of accidents from runaway horses have been occasioned thereby. It was the late Superintendent Jordan, we believe, who suppressed baseball playing in the public street. Why not put down the equally dangerous practice of deliberately pelting people with balls of snow and ice? Pedestrians and others have rights which the city authorities ought to respect, and this is one of them. It may be like locking the stable door after the snow is gone; but "better late than never."

WESTERN GAME AND WESTERN GAMES.

LAWS.—How is it that while the Western game laws have been in force for a month or more our markets have been for some time overstocked with prairie chickens and other Western game? By the way, is the buffalo to be counted in as "game"? Buffalo meat is as plenty in New York at this time as common beef, and sells for less. Any one inclined to get up an extempore prairie dinner can go to Washington Market, buy his prairie chickens, his buffalo and antelope steaks, and, selecting a rasping, cold, wintry day, ride in the horse cars to Central Park—and camp out. The local authorities of the Park might furnish the necessary cooking utensils and some neighboring grocery the corn juice. Seriously, if these Western game laws are worth observing at all this is the time to enforce them; for the immense influx of immigrants into that section of the country, the building of railroads and other attendants upon the march of improvement in the present day will soon cause the valuable game of the region to disappear.

THE NEW WEST POINT BOARD OF VISITORS.—President Grant has appointed two men of peace—Rev. Mr. Sunderland and the Rev. Mr. Vincent—among the Board of Visitors this year to the West Point Military Academy. The names of no "wise men from the East" appear in the Board. It is probably the first time in many years that a New Englander has not figured in this annual West Point flummery. By the way, where is the report of the Congressional branch of the Commission last year, one of whom was General Logan? It has not yet been laid before Congress. Will it ever be?

Personal Intelligence.

Ex-Senator T. T. Davis, of Syracuse, has arrived at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.
State Senator George H. Sanford, of Oneida county, is sojourning at the Metropolitan Hotel.
Archdeacon Bond, of Montreal, is staying at the Everett House.
Mr. J. Ford Kent, of the United States Army, has taken quarters at the St. Denis Hotel.
Mr. John Dodson, ex-Mayor of Petersburg, Va., is stopping at the Grand Central Hotel.
Ex-State Senator O. A. Bills, is registered at the Metropolitan Hotel.
General Wickham and General Echols, of Virginia, are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.
Colonel Jonas H. French and Colonel Seth B. Parker, of Boston, are temporarily at the Grand Central Hotel.
Mr. J. Condit Smith, of New Jersey, is at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.
Colonel D. C. Houston, of the United States Army, is quartered at the Metropolitan Hotel.
Mr. John B. Gale, of Troy, is at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on a brief visit.
General Adolfo Varona is still at the Union Place Hotel. He was to have left in the steamer for St. Thomas yesterday, en route for Cuba, but failed to get on board in time. He will go to join his companions in arms by the next opportunity.

THE HERALD IN MARYLAND.

[From the St. Michaels (Md.) Comet and Advertiser, Feb. 18.]
The New York *HERALD* continues to be the leading newspaper of the United States for enterprise and success in all its news departments. It has had many competitors for the leadership, and thousands of money have been squandered in the vain effort to outstrip it in the race for the latest and most reliable news from all quarters of the globe. This leadership in the newspaper business has been earned by skill and enterprise and the most liberal use of money for correspondence, for telegrams, for express and for all the appliances by which time and space may be annihilated. May success continue to crown with laurels the devoted newspaperer—the NEW YORK *HERALD*.